Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00069 180618Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 DODE-00 CU-04 BIB-01 HA-05 COME-00 DOE-11
SOE-02 DOEE-00 /101 W
----------088575 181531Z /43
R 171625Z FEB 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2642
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0069

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS/ SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD FEBRUARY 13-19

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00069 180618Z

DATA IN THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED TO BE BLOCKED BY EASTERN INSISTENCE THAT AN EXPLICIT WESTERN STATEMENT ACCEPTING THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL AS THE BASIS FOR CONDUCTING IT MUST PRECEDE SUCH AN EXCHANGE. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO INFORMAL SESSIONS OF THE VIENNA TALKS WERE AGAIN HELD THIS WEEK AS PARTICIPANTS KEPT UP THEIR EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

PROCEDURES FOR A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA. AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 14 INFORMAL SESSION, EACH SIDE MADE A SINGLE GENERAL STATEMENT BEFORE TURNING TO THE DATA ISSUE. THE WESTERN GENERAL STATEMENT RESPONDED TO THE EASTERN CRITICISM IN THE FEBRUARY 7 INFORMAL SESSION THAT US FORCE INCREASES IN THE REDUCTION AREA WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT EMPHASIZED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT, THE WEST COULD NOT UNILATERALLY ABSTAIN FROM IMPROVING ITS DEFENSES, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE FACT THAT EASTERN FORCES IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN INCREASING DURING THE COURSE OF THE TALKS. THE EASTERN GENERAL STATEMENT REVIEWED THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH IN STANDARD TERMS AND CRITICIZED THE UNWILLINGNESS OF NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO UNDERTAKE EVEN A GENERAL COMMITMENT IN A FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT REGARDING THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A SECOND STAGE OF REDUCTIONS.

3. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT, THE BULK OF THE FEBRUARY 14 SESSION DEALT WITH THE ORAL STATEMENTS WHICH EASTERN REPS CONTINUED TO INSIST MUST BE EXCHANGED PRIOR TO A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA. EASTERN REPS SAID THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER OTHER PROPOSED WESTERN AMENDMENTS TO THE EAST'S DECEMBER 14 DRAFT TEXT OF THE STATEMENTS IF THE WESTERN SIDE WAS PREPARED TO INCLUDE IN ITS STATEMENT EXPLICIT ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL AS THE BASIS FOR EXCHANGING ADDITIONAL DATA. THEY WENT ON TO QUESTION THE SHORT DISCLAIMER WHICH WESTERN REPS WANTED TO ADD TO THE DECEMBER 14 TEXT. WESTERN REPS REPEATED THE REASONS WHY THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT A SPECIFIC REFERENCE

SECRET

TO THE OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL IN THE WESTERN STATEMENT. IN THE INTEREST OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT, THEY OFFERED TO RESTORE A SECOND REFERENCE TO THE OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL, WHOSE DELETION FROM THE EASTERN STATEMENT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT. EASTERN REPS AGREED TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION AT A SECOND INFORMAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY16.

4. DURING THE FEBRUARY 16 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS AGAIN EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTIVELY OTHER PROPOSED WESTERN CHANGES TO THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN TEXT ONCE THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF UNAMBIGUOUS WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA PROPOSAL WAS RESOLVED. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WESTERN READINESS TO RESTORE TO THE EASTERN STATEMENT A SECOND REFERENCE TO THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL CONSTITUTED SOME MOVEMENT ON THE TEXT, BUT THEN PROCEEDED TO RETURN THE SAME MOVE TO THE WEST BY ALLOWING, UNDER THE GUISE OF AN EASTERN CONCESSION, THAT THAT PARTICULAR MENTION OF THE PROPOSAL COULD, IN FACT, BE DROPPED. WESTERN REPS STRONGLY ARGUED THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO CONSIDER THE ORAL STATEMENTS IN THEIR ENTIRETY, WITH AGREEMENT ON INDIVIDUAL SUGGESTIONS DEPENDENT ON FINAL AGREEMENT TO THE OVERALL TEXT. PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO RESUME CONSIDERATION OF THE DATA EXCHANGE QUESTION AT THE INFORMAL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

5. NETHERLANDS REP DE VOS DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT AT THE FEBRUARY 16 PLENARY MEETING. IN HIS PRESENTATION, NETHERLANDS REP UNDERLINED THE VITAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRINCIPLE OF PARITY AND AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND EMPHASIZED THE WESTERN HOPE THAT A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF DATA WOULD OCCUR SOON IN ORDER TO HELP CLARIFY THE ACTUAL FACTS OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REDUCTION AREA. HE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED SPECIFIC INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN PRIOR EASTERN BEHAVIOR AND EASTERN CLAIMS, MADE SINCE THE EAST TABLED DATA IN JUNE 1976, THAT NEAR PARITY ALREADY EXISTED BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA. RESOR

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